

---

## Comments on Shoal Development

Save The Bays is concerned about any habitat development on the tidal shoal in Moorings Bay. Having read Dr. Bauer's "Scope of Services" notice, we know he is also aware of the problems any development might cause and shares our concerns.

The testing and study of the water quality in Moorings and Venetian Bays demonstrates how the unimpeded strong tidal flow benefits our water quality. It is our greatest asset in flushing our bays and keeping our water quality equal to that of the Gulf. Any changes to this strong flow would reduce our water quality and we cannot allow that to happen.

The addition of either riprap or oyster shell bags for oyster habitat, or mangroves for fish habitat would cause the shoal to increase in size and both trap debris and impede the tidal flow, thus reducing our water quality. We've seen that sand was trapped by and built up over the existing oyster bags with the tidal flow.

Save The Bays double mission is to 1) promote and protect the water quality, and 2) assure safe navigation within our system. We know that rocks or oyster reefs and boats do not mix. If a boat, especially an inflatable, strays onto the mud shoal, it merely gets stuck; if it strays onto rocks or reefs, it is damaged.

Could we try to seed some clams on the shoal to provide the bay with filter feeding mollusks and avoid problems with enlarging the shoal or imperiling navigation? History tells us we did have many clams in the past. A small scale test could be done to see how they thrive there. They did fairly well in our test sites.

Marilyn Tempest

Save The Bays